

Message Text

PAGE 01 TEL AV 06905 01 OF 02 030030Z

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y - T E X T

DEPT REPEAT AS DESIRED

E O 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, XF, IS

SUBJECT: WALDHEIM VISIT

REF: TEL AVIV 6898

1. SUMMARY: MFA BRIEFING ON WALDHEIM SESSIONS WITH PRIMIN MEIR AND FONMIN EBAN FOLLOWED GENERAL LINES OF REFTEL REPORTING AMB'S DISCUSSION ON AUG 31 WITH MRS MEIR. ADDITIONAL POINTS WORTH HIGHLIGHTING ARE : (1) WHEN WALDHEIM FIRST RAISED POSSIBILITY OF UN CHARTER BEING BASIS OF NEGOTIATIONS, MRS MEIR INDICATED ISRAEL WOULD AWAIT EGYPT'S REACTION TO PROPOSAL BEFORE MAKING DECISION. ABBA EBAN SUBSEQUENTLY MADE CLEAR TO WALDHEIM THAT ISRAEL REJECTED IDEA IN FAVOR OF RES 242; (2) EBAN DISPUTED WALDHEIM'S STATEMENT THAT SITUATION IN AREA BECOMING WORSE WITH PASSAGE OF TIME, NOTING INTER ALIA SADAT FACED CHOICE BETWEEN CONTINUATION OF STATUS QUO OR NEGOTIATIONS WHICH WOULD GIVE HIM MORE THAN HE HAS NOW; (3) WALDHEIM RAISED "AT REQUEST OF ARABS" QUESTION OF GOI FUTURE POLICY IN ADMINISTERED AREAS. EBAN DOWNPLAYED SUBJECT, NOTING SETTLEMENT LIMITED TO AREAS WHERE GOI WOULD PROPOSE TERRITORIAL ADJUSTMENTS, POLICY UNCHANGED RE LAND ACQUISITION AND FINAL BORDERS TO BE DECIDED IN NEGOTIATIONS; (4) ABBA EBAN IN PRIVATE CONVERSATION TOLD WALDHEIM HIS VISIT TO ISRAEL "POSITIVE" AND SECRET

PAGE 02 TEL AV 06905 01 OF 02 030030Z

URGED WALDHEIM CONTINUE TO EMPHASIZE STUDY CHARACTER OF VISITS TO AREA. WALDHEIM AGREED WITH EBAN'S SUGGESTION AND NOTED HE GRATIFIED BY RECEPTION IN ISRAEL. HE EMPHASIZED TO EBAN HIS BELIEF THAT AT LEAST IMPRESSION OF DIPLOMATIC ACTIVITY IN MID-

EAST WAS REQUIRED: (5) ISRAELIS BELIEVE WALDHEIM CLEARLY HOPES FIND ROLE FOR UN AND FOR HIMSELF PERSONALLY IN EFFORT TO GET PARTIES TOGETHER. IN THIS RESPECT, WALDHEIM NOTED HE HOPED TO CREATE "CONTACTS" BETWEEN EBAN AND ARAB FOREIGN MINISTERS DURING GENERAL ASSEMBLY LATER THIS FALL. WALDHEIM STATED US NOT "ENTHUSIASTIC" OVER ANY PUBLIC ACTIVITY ON UN IN MID-EAST, BUT STATED US WOULD WELCOME QUIET ACTION BY UN. END SUMMARY.

2. EPHRAIM EVRON. ASST DIR-GEN MFA, BRIEFED DCM TODAY ON WALDHEIM VISIT. EVRON READ FROM REPORTING CABLES SENT TO AMB DINITZ NOTING THAT TRANSCRIPTS OF THE CONVERSATIONS WALDHEIM HAD WITH MRS MEIR AND ABBA EBAN AND A LATER CONVERSATION WITH EBAN ALONE WOULD BE MADE AVAILABLE IN A FEW DAYS.

3. CONVERSATIONS WITH MRS MEIR AND ABBA EBAN. WALDHEIM'S FIRST CONVERSATION WAS ON THURSDAY MORNING AUG 30 WITH MRS MEIR AND ABBA EBAN TOGETHER. WALDHEIM MADE IT VERY CLEAR THAT, THROUGH A UN INITIATIVE, HE PERSONALLY WOULD LIKE TO BE HELPFUL IN GETTING THE PARTIES CLOSER TOGETHER BY CREATING AN ATMOSPHERE OF TRUST. HE SUGGESTED, THEREFORE, THAT IT MIGHT BE PREFERABLE TO GET AWAY FROM PRESENT FORMULATIONS AND ONE SHOULD CONSIDER IF IT WOULDN'T BE WORTHWHILE TO BASE NEGOTIATIONS ON THE UN CHARTER: IN THIS RESPECT HE RECALLED THE RHODES FORMULA. WALDHEIM STATED THAT HE SUPPORTED THE IDEA OF AN INTERIM AGREEMENT BUT THE EGYPTIANS REJECTED IT FOR FEAR THAT SUCH AN AGREEMENT MIGHT FREEZE THE SITUATION. IN COMMENTING ON A POSSIBLE UN ROLE, WALDHEIM STATED THAT THE US WAS NOT "ENTHUSIASTIC" OVER A PUBLIC ACTIVITY ON THE UN IN THE MID EAST BUT HE SAID THE US WOULD WELCOME QUIET ACTION ON THE PART OF THE UN. WALDHEIM SAID HE HOPED TO BE ABLE TO CREATE CONTACTS BETWEEN EBAN AND ARAB FOREIGN MINISTERS DURING THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY THIS FALL. HE ASKED IF THE GOI WAS INTERESTED IN UN HELP AND WHAT HE COULD TELL THE GOI ABOUT ISRAEL'S POSITION.

4. MRS MEIR PRESENTED THE GOI POSITION RE NEGOTIATIONS ALONG
SECRET

PAGE 03 TEL AV 06905 01 OF 02 030030Z

LINES IN REFTEL: NEGOTIATIONS WOULD HAVE TO BE WITHOUT PRE-COMMITMENTS AND/OR PRECONDITIONS IN WHICH EACH SIDE COULD PRESENT ITS POSITION AND DEMANDS. ISRAEL WILL WELCOME HELP FROM ANYONE - INCLUDING THE UN - WHO COULD HELP ACHIEVE THIS, BUT IT SHOULD BE ABUNDANTLY CLEAR THAT THIS "ANYONE" WILL NOT MEDIATE OR TRY TO IMPOSE SOLUTIONS. REGARDING THE IDEA OF NEGOTIATIONS BASED ON THE UN CHARTER, MRS MEIR REPLIED THAT ISRAEL WOULD AWAIT EGYPT'S REACTION AND THEN REPEATED THE

ISRAELI STAND RE PRECOMMITMENTS AND PRECONDITIONS. IN REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY WALDHEIM, MRS MEIR ASSURED HIM THAT THE GOI IS STILL READY TO ACCEPT AN INTERIM AGREEMENT WHICH COULD BE THE FIRST STEP IN THE DIRECTION OF A GENERAL SETTLEMENT. SHE ADDED

THAT THE GOI VIEWS SUCH AN AGREEMENT AS "UNFREEZING" THE SITUATION RATHER THAN "FREEZING" THE SITUATION AS THE EGYPTIANS FEAR.

5. THE PRIMIN DWELT AT LENGTH ON THE NATURE OF THE ARAB-ISRAELI CONFLICT WITH EMPHASIS ON REFUSAL OF THE ARABS TO RECOGNIZE, ACCEPT AND BE WILLING TO LIVE WITH ISRAEL. SHE REVIEWED THE 1957 WITHDRAWALS, THE MAY-JUNE 1967 CRISIS AND THE HISTORY OF THE JARRING MISSION. SHE ALSO REFERRED TO THE HYPOCRISY AND IMBALANCE IN THE ATTITUDE OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS ON THE SUBJECT OF ARAB TERRORISM AND ISRAEL.

6. CLARIFICATION OF GOI POSITION ON UN CHARTER PROPOSAL. EVRON NOTED THAT SUBSEQUENT TO THE MEETING WITH MRS MEIR THERE HAD BEEN A CONSIDERABLE AMOUNT OF ACTIVITY IN THE GOI CONCERNING WALDHEIM'S PROPOSAL THAT THE UN CHARTER MIGHT BE THE BASIS FOR NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN ISRAEL AND THE ARABS AND MRS MEIR'S REPLY WHICH LEFT THE DOOR OPEN FOR AT LEAST CONSIDERATION OF THE PROPOSAL AFTER WALDHEIM VISIT CAIRO. AFTER CONSULTATION WITH THE PRIMIN, THE DECISION WAS MADE TO INFORM WALDHEIM OF THE GOI NEGATIVE VIEW OF THIS IDEA AND THIS WAS DONE BY EBAN AT THE AIRPORT PRIOR TO WALDHEIM'S DEPARTURE. EBAN SAID TO WALDHEIM THAT IT WAS IMPORTANT FOR EGYPT TO GET A CLEAR AND ACCURATE DESCRIPTION OF THE GOI POSITION ON NEGOTIATIONS WHICH IS: "READINESS TO NEGOTIATE A PEACE SETTLEMENT WITHOUT PREVIOUS CONDITIONS AND ISRAEL CONTINUES TO REGARD RES 242 AS THE BASIS FOR THESE NEGOTIATIONS."

SECRET

PAGE 04 TEL AV 06905 01 OF 02 030030Z

7. CONVERSATION BETWEEN WALDHEIM AND EBAN. EBAN WENT OVER GOI POSITIONS ON ALL RELEVANT ITEMS WITH WALDHEIM. WALDHEIM NOTED THAT RES 24 HAD NOT PRODUCED ANY PROGRESS AND AGAIN PUT FORWARD HIS IDEA OF USING THE UN CHARTER AS THE BASIS OF NEGOTIATIONS. EBAN EXPRESSED DOUBTS BUT SAID THE GOI WOULD BE OPEN TO ANY SUGGESTION WHICH WOULD PRODUCE FREE NEGOTIATIONS AND WHICH WOULD NOT SEEK TO PREDETERMINE RESULTS, ETC.

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